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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

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Cornell at Empire Farm Days 2008

By Marissa Fessenden

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) is gearing up for the annual Empire Farm Days, the largest outdoor agricultural fair in the Northeast.

Crowds will gather August 5-7 in Seneca Falls, NY, to view more than 600 exhibits of the latest agricultural technology and products, represented by leading manufacturers, scientists, and ag specialists. Visitors may attend seminars and presentations for all segments of agriculture, from dairy and field crops to horticulture and forestry.

From farm to market, garden to field and classroom to home, the Cornell Center promises something for Empire Farm Days' visitors of all ages. New this year, will be an emphasis on bioenergy. Cornell experts will be on-hand to answer questions about methane digesters, switchgrass production, bio-ethanol, the Northeast Sun Grant Initiative, the new Biofuels Research Laboratory, CURBI, and the future of green energy. Learn how Cornell researchers are expanding sustainable bioenergy options while producing safe, abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

At the over 30 interactive booths, CALS visitors will also find abundant information on everything from wine to cockroaches. Specialists will be on-hand to answer questions on farm management issues, farm transitions, value-added agriculture products, and agriculture issues. The public is encouraged to bring bugs and diseased plants for identification. There will be lots to eat, with samples of New York cheese, apples, wine, fresh-roasted corn, and food products developed with Cornell expertise.

The Cornell Center also guarantees fun for children at an interactive Children's Corner staffed by Cornell Agricultural Outreach and Education students. Young Empire Farm Days attendees will learn about the farm-to-fork food cycle through hands-on, fun activities. New York State FFA and 4-H members will be on hand to guide the fun.

At the "Ask the Experts" tables, visitors will be able to get answers to their questions about Sustainable and Local Food Production, Veterinary Medicine and Bioenergy resources. Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Quality Milk Services and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York will discuss how to transition dairies to organic production. The Department of Clinical Sciences at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine will field animal health questions.

On Wednesday August 6, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm, join CALS Senior Associate Dean Jan Nyrop for a Cornell alumni and friends reception in the Cornell Center. Stop by for a cold drink, ice cream from the Cornell Dairy Store, and visit with friends. During the reception, John Lincoln, board president of the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI), will make a presentation to some of the 2007 NYFVI awardees.

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The CALS building at Empire Farm Days 2007 drew big crowds



Food products developed with Cornell expertise were available at Empire Farm Days 2007 and will be again at this year's edition.

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